

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 236738

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 236738

E. O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: SENV, PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: U. S.-MEXICO DISCUSSIONS ON BORDER POLLUTION
PROBLEMS

REF: STATE 234655; MEXICO 9016

1. THE FOLLOWING IS TO GUIDE THE U. S. TEAM IN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SUBJECT DISCUSSION FOR THE DECEMBER 6-7 MEETING AT MEXICO CITY.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING, IN THE VIEW OF THE U. S. TEAM AND AS INITIALLY PROPOSED BY THE GOM, IS TO DISCUSS BORDER POLLUTION PROBLEMS - TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS AND MEASURES THAT MIGHT BE ADOPTED TO CONTROL AND ABATE THE POLLUTION. THE OBJECTIVES OF THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS BY EACH COUNTRY TO COPE WITH ONE OR MORE OF THESE COMMON POLLUTION PROBLEMS, EACH COUNTRY DEALING WITH ITS OWN PORTION OF EACH PROBLEM WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES AND PROCEDURES, BUT IN COORDINATION WITH COMPLEMENTARY EFFORTS BY THE OTHER COUNTRY TO EASE OR ELIMINATE EACH SPECIFIC POLLUTION PROBLEM. WHILE THE U. S. IS PREPARED IN SOME CASES TO OUTLINE THE PROGRAM OF WORK IT CONTEMPLATES TO DEAL WITH ITS PORTION OF A PROBLEM, THE U. S. TEAM DOES NOT EXPECT THE MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS TO BE SIMILARLY PREPARED; HOWEVER, AT THIS MEETING SOME PROGRESS

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PAGE 02 STATE 236738

SHOULD BE MADE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE OBJECTIVES.

3. WE SEE NO NEED FOR ANY WRITTEN AGREEMENTS OR ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET THESE OBJECTIVES. DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION ON EACH SIDE OF THE BORDER APPEARS TO US TO BE A MOST USEFUL EARLY STEP. CERTAINLY EACH COUNTRY CAN ONLY OPERATE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF ITS LAWS AND REGULATIONS, FUND AVAILABILITY, AND THE COOPERATION OF ITS STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS; HOWEVER, THESE LIMITS DO PERMIT IMPROVED COORDINATION OF EACH SIDE'S EFFORTS TO COPE WITH COMMON BORDER POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

4. THE PARTICIPATION OF THIRD PARTIES, SUCH AS PAHO, IS NOT CONSIDERED USEFUL IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE U.S. VIEW. SHOULD GOM DESIRE PAHO REPRESENTATIVE TO BE PRESENT, U. S. WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION, SO LONG AS DISCUSSION IS ON A BILATERAL BASIS.

5. THE DEPARTMENT STRONGLY DESIRES THAT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS BE HELD WITHIN ABOVE GUIDELINES AND PLACES RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH WITH ITS MEMBER OF THE U. S. TEAM, MR. BLACKISTON. THE INTERPRETATION OF U. S. REGULATIONS ON POLLUTION CONTROL AND THE AVAILABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY OF ITS MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EPA AND, FOR THIS MEETING, ITS ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR, MR. GREEN. IBWC COMMISSIONER FRIEDKIN WILL SPEAK PARTICULARLY FOR THE INTERESTS OF U. S. SECTION OF COMMISSION AND OUT OF LONG EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH SIMILAR MATTERS.

6. REPORT FROM EMBASSY AT CONCLUSION OF MEETINGS WOULD BE APPRECIATED; PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO PROGRESS MADE TOWARD OUR DESIRED OBJECTIVES AND EMBASSY'S EVALUATION OF FUTURE EFFORTS NEEDED ON THESE MATTERS. KISSINGER

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